



Beaverton Police Department

4755 S.W. Griffith Drive
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Chief Geoff Spalding



NEWS RELEASE

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Released: May 17, 2012
Case No: N/A

CLICK IT OR TICKET

Officers from the Beaverton Police Department will again join law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon in the Three Flags Seatbelt Enforcement Campaign, beginning Monday, May 21st and continuing through Sunday, June 3rd. The focus of the program is to increase public awareness of the seatbelt laws with the goal of reducing traffic injuries and deaths.

The Beaverton Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit will take to the road during this campaign, to focus their attention on seatbelt violations and child safety seat violations, but will also be watching for drivers who are speeding or driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Oregon law requires that there be "proper use" of the entire seatbelt system; lap belt placed low across the hips and a shoulder belt over the collarbone and crossing the center of the chest. Belts should be free of slack and lying flat with no twists or knots. If necessary, slide the attachment on the door post up or down to fit the size of you or your passenger. Shoulder belts should not be placed under the arm or behind the back – this can cause serious internal injuries or ejection in the event of a crash.

Proper fit and use of seatbelts and child safety seats is proven to prevent serious injury and save lives. Nationwide in 2010, 12,546 individuals age five and older were saved by using seatbelts. Another 3,341 more lives might have been saved if seatbelts had been used. Unbelted or improperly belted passengers face a much greater chance of being ejected from the vehicle during a crash. Their chances of surviving an ejection are less than 25 percent.

A statewide observation survey in June 2011 found 97 Percent of Oregon's motoring public using safety belts, making Oregon one of the three highest belt use states in our country. Since the 1990 passage of Oregon's adult belt law, observed belt use among the motoring public has nearly doubled from 50 percent to 97 percent while crash fatality and injury rates have both dramatically decreased by 62 percent and 37 percent respectively.

The Beaverton Police Department holds free child safety seat clinics throughout the year. The next two clinics will be on May 19, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Beaverton City Hall, 4755 SW Griffith Drive and June 2, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Kuni Cadillac, 3725 S.W. Cedar Hills Boulevard.

The Beaverton Police Department will continue to strive to keep our citizens safe, reminding you that car seats, seat belts and following the posted speed limit are an effective way to protect you and your family. Our enforcement efforts will be on-going as we work with the community to save lives.

Three Flag Blitz campaigns are funded through grants received from the Oregon Chiefs of Police and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

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